

population of 60,400. While agribusinesses continues to be an important part of its economy, a growing number of residents are employed in a wide array of industries spread across the North Texas landscape. Wise County has developed a reputation as having a small town lifestyle with urban amenities nearby. Seventeen incorporated towns and cities are part of Wise County. They include: Alvord, Aurora, Boyd, Bridgeport, Briar, Chico, Decatur, Greenwood, Lake Bridgeport, Newark, New Fairview, Paradise, Pecan Acres, Rhome, Runaway Bay and Slidell.

To celebrate its heritage, Wise County commemorates its founding from September 30 through October 7, 2006, with the Wise County Sesquicentennial celebration. The Wise County Sesquicentennial celebration honors the past and recognizes the future with events in every corner of the county.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Wise County on the 150th anniversary of its establishment and to offer sincere appreciation for the many contributions Wise County and its great citizens have made to Texas and the United States over the last 150 years.

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR
TOMMY ED ROBERTS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alabama State Senator Tommy Ed Roberts. Senator Roberts has represented Limestone, Madison, and Morgan Counties in the Alabama State Senate since 1994 and served in the Alabama House of Representatives from 1974 through 1982. Senator Roberts recently announced his retirement from public service and in April concluded his final legislative session.

I consider it a privilege to have worked with Senator Roberts on a wide variety of issues facing Morgan County. He has done a great deal to help further the quality of life for all individuals in our community.

During his many years of service in the State Legislature, Senator Roberts' peers elected him to numerous legislative leadership positions. He served as the Chairman of the Senate Business and Labor Committee and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

Senator Roberts' well known legislative accomplishments include his work to create Alabama's identity theft protection laws and his bill to allow Morgan County to give a portion of its sales tax to help fund volunteer fire departments.

In addition to serving Morgan County as a State Legislator, Senator Roberts was a champion of economic development and expansion. He served as Executive Director of the Morgan County Industrial Development Association and the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority for many years and is credited with helping to create over 14,000 jobs. He played a large role in successfully recruiting the Boeing Delta IV Rocket Plant and Nucor Steel plants to Decatur, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Roberts is well respected throughout our local community and the entire State of Alabama. On Saturday, September 23rd, the North Alabama commu-

nity will gather to honor and celebrate all of Senator Roberts' achievements. I rise today, to join in their celebration and to thank Senator Roberts for his many years of dedicated service.

HONORING THE BRAVE WARRIORS
WHO HAVE ENLISTED IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST NARCO-TERRORISM

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave warriors who have enlisted in the fight against narco-terrorism. Some, like Edna McAber of Baltimore, have narrowly escaped death. Others, like Carnell and Angela Dawson and their five beautiful children, were not so lucky.

The front page of the Tuesday, September 19, 2006 edition of the Baltimore Sun tells the story of Ms. McAber, a tireless community activist who made it her personal mission to fight back drug trafficking in her neighborhood of Harwood.

For her efforts, her car was keyed, her tires were slashed, bricks were thrown through her windows, and finally—18 months ago—her house was firebombed.

Ms. McAber survived the attack, but only to be exiled from the neighborhood she loved enough to try to save.

Sadly, stories like hers are not unprecedented in Baltimore. This October marks the 4-year anniversary of one of the most terrible tragedies I have witnessed in my lifetime.

Mrs. Dawson, like Ms. McAber, was a warrior for her community. She fought to get drug dealers off her street, and away from her five young children. She paid for her efforts with her life.

Drug dealers one night filled the Dawson family home with gasoline, and set it up in flames. All five children and their mother died in the attack. Mr. Dawson, who sustained burns over 85 percent of his body, died a week later.

When I sat at the Dawson family funeral 4 years ago, looking at those five small caskets and one big casket, I thought to myself: How did we get here?

I have lived my whole life in inner city Baltimore. I have seen the innocent little girls who used to play hopscotch on my block grow up to sell their bodies for drugs. I have seen brilliant little boys with endless potential head off to jail instead of college.

The disease of drugs plagues every facet of our community, robbing children of their childhood, and denying decent people the opportunity to thrive.

It is a pervasive disease that reaches far beyond our inner cities, tormenting the lives of people in communities across our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am as committed to the global war on terrorism as any member of this body, and I commend our brave warriors who risk their lives every day so that we might be safer.

But don't be fooled: Terrorism lives here at home as well.

Warriors like Mrs. Dawson and Ms. McAber have fought for our freedom with their livelihoods and their lives.

Just as we honor our soldiers in Iraq by providing them with the most sophisticated defense technology on the market, we must honor our domestic warriors by providing law enforcement officials with the best tools available to protect them.

That is why I introduced the "Dawson Family Community Protection Act" (H.R. 812) and the "Witness Security and Protection Act" (H.R. 908).

The "Dawson Family Community Protection Act," which would provide protections to neighborhood activists, passed the House in March as part of the "Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act" (H.R. 2829).

I want to thank my colleagues in the House for their support of this vital initiative and I urge our colleagues in the Senate to follow suit by passing the ONDCP reauthorization.

The "Witness Security and Protection Act" would provide much-needed federal funds to state-run witness protection programs.

I implore my colleagues, in honor of Ms. McAber, the Dawson family, and the countless others who have suffered and continue to suffer from the violent fallout of the drug trade and the ravages of drug abuse, to support the "Witness Security and Protection Act," H.R. 908.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AT L.D.
BELL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hurst-Euleless-Bedford Independent School District's L.D. Bell High School as it celebrates its 50th anniversary of providing quality education for its students. L.D. Bell has been a fixture in the H-E-B community since 1957. Lawrence Dale Bell High School was opened on a site donated to the school district by the late Larry Bell, Founder and President of Bell Helicopter Textron in Hurst.

Rapid student growth and academic excellence have been the cornerstone of Bell High School. During its 50-year history, L.D. Bell has earned state and national recognition in academics, athletics, fine arts, leadership training and service disciplines. These numerous honors resulted in the recognition of L.D. Bell as a National Blue Ribbon School during the 1994–1996 school terms.

L.D. Bell's high school motto affirms that they "Do not imitate but are a role model for others." The accomplishments that L.D. Bell High School has achieved in its first 50 years certainly exemplify this. With half a century of success behind them, I am confident that L.D. Bell will continue to educate and inspire the young adults that walk its halls today.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here today and honor the 50th anniversary of L.D. Bell High School for their dedication and continuing commitment to education in my congressional district.